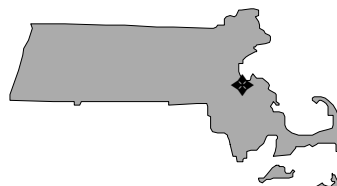


Size: 48 acres
Mission: Conduct materials research and development
HRS Score: 48.60; placed on NPL in May 1994
IAG Status: Signed July 25, 1995
Contaminants: Radionuclides, heavy metals, petroleum products, solvents, pesticides, and PCBs
Media Affected: Soil and surface water
Funding to Date: \$96.0 million
Estimated Cost to Completion (Completion Year): \$2.8 million (FY2008)
Final Remedy in Place or Response Complete Date for BRAC Sites: FY2002



Watertown, Massachusetts

Restoration Background

In December 1988, the BRAC Commission recommended closure of the Watertown Army Research Laboratory. The Army has moved the installation's mission activity to a combined laboratory at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. The installation closed, as scheduled, on September 30, 1995.

Environmental studies at the installation concluded that most of the soil was contaminated with heating oil, pesticides, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Similar chemical and metal contaminants were present in a number of laboratories and machine shops. The installation divided its Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) activities into three areas (indoor, outdoor, and Charles River).

The installation completed several Interim Actions, including asbestos abatement, removal of all known aboveground and underground storage tanks, remediation of petroleum-contaminated soil, decommissioning of the central heavy-oil-fired power plant, retrofitting and disposal of PCB-contaminated transformers, closing of cooling water discharge sources, and reactor decommissioning.

The installation formed a BRAC cleanup team (BCT) and a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) in FY94.

In FY96, the installation completed decommissioning of facilities contaminated with radioactive materials. The installation also completed removal and demolition of the tank farm (Structure 295). A cost saving resulted from using the tank farm structure as beneficial backfill.

The Army and regulators signed a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Outdoor Soil and Groundwater Operable Unit (OU) in

September 1996. In response to a request from the Watertown Arsenal Development Corporation (ADC), the BCT expedited development of a second ROD for Building 131.

Working with the RAB and the Watertown ADC, the BCT identified and approved an alternative remedy that reduced the duration of remediation effort by 1 year, with significant savings. During the design phase, the BCT reevaluated the risks associated with the Indoor OU cleanup, resulting in a reduced cleanup cost.

In FY97, the installation initiated soil and indoor remediation, initiated a finding of suitability to transfer (FOST) for various properties, and completed cleanup for 11 soil areas. Document review was expedited through simultaneous review by all agencies. The BCT separated the 11-acre River Park Parcel from the 37-acre Installation Parcel for future resolution, coordinated soil remediation, assessed indoor cleanup criteria, developed the Charles River RI/FS, and finished the Building 60/227 RI/FS.

FY98 Restoration Progress

The installation completed remediating the Indoor OU and the soil areas within the 37-acre parcel. The FOST and related transfer documents were prepared and signed. The installation developed institutional controls to provide state oversight to prohibit future owners from digging in areas contaminated with polyaromatic hydrocarbons unless they dispose of, and remediate, the material properly. The Historic Site proposal was approved, and the Watertown ADC selected a site developer. In August, the installation transferred 37 acres and buildings to the Watertown ADC.

The Army delayed remediation of the 11-acre River Park parcel so that the regulatory agencies could focus on transferring the 37-

acre parcel. The River Park ROD is being reevaluated to determine whether it should be combined with the adjacent Charles River ROD. The EA for the River Park was signed in September 1998 and published in the *Federal Register*. The Army initiated deleting the 37-acre parcel from the National Priorities List.

The RAB continued to meet monthly during this active period of remediation. It reviewed all documents, provided suggestions and comments, and participated in the development of institutional controls. The BCT continued work on the transfer documents. Legal representatives from the regulatory agencies worked with community legal representatives and the developer to resolve future liability issues.

Plan of Action

- Complete soil remediation at River Park in FY99
- Complete the Charles River RI/FS in FY99, the ROD in FY00, and RA in FY01
- Complete the FOST for River Park in FY00
- Transfer 11-acre River Park parcel in FY01
- Complete BRAC activities in FY02
- Delete 37.4-acre parcel from NPL in FY99

SITES ACHIEVING RIP OR RC PER FISCAL YEAR

